

unique individual and personal friend for her exemplary service to my home State of Missouri at the time of her retirement. Betty Gregoire, has lived in Kansas City, Missouri for the past 24 years during which she has been a wife and mother, a volunteer and a public servant. Betty has shown the kind of lifelong devotion to her State that make it an honor to commend her for her many years of civic contribution.

After receiving a B.S. Degree from State University of New York, she taught in Long Island Elementary Schools and in Rochester, New York High School System. Betty came to Weatherby Lake, a community near Kansas City, in 1973 and by 1980 had established a position as Manager of the Prosecuting Attorney's office. Later she became the Administrative Assistant to the County Commission.

In addition to her service on the Weatherby Lake Improvement Board, as secretary, Legislative Committee, Missouri Assessor's Association, she was appointed by Governor John Ashcroft to fill the term of Assessor in 1985 and continued to serve for three terms.

Now part of the Finance Committee of St. Teresa Catholic church in Parkville, Betty is also a member of the Mid American Regional Council (MARC) Board and has held the position of Treasurer and 2nd Vice-President.

Betty was appointed by the Governor in 1986 to the Missouri Job & Employment Council then reappointed in 1992, and was District 3 Director of Missouri Association of Counties from 1991-94.

As an active member of several other civic organizations, Betty is an example for her fellow Missourians. I commend Betty for her many years of service and I am glad to say that the State of Missouri is enriched with her wisdom and leadership.●

#### THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF PAKISTAN

● Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the people of Pakistan on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of their independence. In August of 1947, Pakistan gained its independence from the British Empire. For the past fifty years, the people of Pakistan have shared with the people of the United States a common interest in the establishment of democracy. In recent years, Pakistan has reasserted its commitment to democratic government and is deserving of both our recognition and our support.

The friendship between the United States and Pakistan goes back many years. In the mid-1950's, Pakistan and the United States joined together in a security agreement to resist Soviet expansion in South Asia. In late 1955, Pakistan joined the South East Asia Treaty Organization and the Central Treaty Organization, demonstrating Pakistan's commitment to the Free World. This commitment proved invaluable during the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, as our two nations

united in opposition to Soviet aggression. Without a doubt, a close, constructive friendship between the United States and Pakistan has been essential to the security of both nations.

Beyond the affairs of state, there are the economic and cultural exchanges which spur growth and development and enrich the lives of our nations. In 1996, the total value of U.S. trade with Pakistan was \$1.3 billion. Pakistan has recently embarked on an ambitious economic reform program to jumpstart the economy of Pakistan and provide the necessary foundation for free and fair trade. The United States should support these efforts, as Pakistan has the potential to one day become a model for the newly independent states of West and Central Asia.

Pakistani-Americans are a vibrant part of American cultural and economic life. Across the nation, Pakistani-Americans share their knowledge and heritage with other Americans, contribute to our economy, and create homes and neighborhoods which are a vital contribution to the American dream.

And so, on this the fiftieth anniversary of the independence of Pakistan, I rise to honor the people of Pakistan and their commitment to forge a free and democratic society. I look forward to many years of continued friendship between the people of Pakistan and the United States.●

#### INCREASING INCOME FOR THE DISABLED

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today as a cosponsor of S. 1054. This legislation, introduced by Senator COCHRAN, gives greater opportunity to disabled workers.

In a nation professing to honor and reward hard work, I find it distressing that individuals able and, more importantly, willing to work do not receive all the benefits they are entitled to. Presently, disabled individuals can maintain Social Security benefits only if they do not earn a substantial amount. For the disabled, this amount is \$500 per month, or \$6000 per year. Blind individuals, however, are able to earn nearly twice as much without diminished benefits; nearly \$12,000 per year. This discrepancy is wrong.

During the 104th Congress, the Senate acted on legislation expanding senior citizens ability to work. The Senate passed the "Senior Citizens' Right to Work Act of 1996" by unanimous consent. This legislation, which I was proud to support, allows seniors to retain more of their Social Security benefits even if they continue to work. By the year 2002, seniors will be able to earn up to \$30,000 in outside income without penalty. I see no reason why the Senate can extend the earnings limit to seniors and the blind, but does not extend the ability for greater income to the disabled. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and correct this outstanding deficiency.●

#### SPECIAL COORDINATOR FOR U.S. POLICY TOWARD TIBET

● Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, today the New York Times reports an important advance in United States diplomacy. Secretary of State Albright has agreed to appoint a special coordinator to oversee American policy toward Tibet. This brings to fruition the vision of our beloved former chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Pell, who introduced a bill (S. 2554) at the end of the 103d Congress to establish a position in the Department of State to coordinate United States policy on Tibet.

Since 1959, the Tibetans have suffered the liberation of their country by the Communist Chinese. Tibet is a remote land. Tibetans at that time had no interest in relations with other countries. No interest in joining the newly formed United Nations. Perhaps if Tibet had, we would have paid more attention when it was invaded.

Now it's time to pay attention. Most importantly, we must focus on efforts to bring the Tibetans and the Chinese to the negotiating table to resolve their differences. The situation requires far more attention within the administration and a special coordinator can provide appropriate attention. While the Dalai Lama has stated repeatedly his willingness to begin negotiations, the Chinese continue to issue denials. As my daughter Maura wrote in a Washington Post article in April:

Most policy makers do not realize that the Dalai Lama is not seeking territorial sovereignty for his captive nation; nor is he asking to be reinstated as the head of the theocratic government that ruled Tibet prior to the Chinese invasion. In an address to the European Parliament in 1988 in Strasbourg, France, the Dalai Lama offered the Chinese control of Tibet's military and diplomatic affairs if they would allow the Tibetan people a measure of self-governance and non-interference in religion and culture.

That is certainly a magnanimous offer. The response from the Chinese? Silence.

In creating this new position, we make clear that we have heard this reasonable offer and intend to pursue it. As Lodi Gyari, the able diplomat who represents the Dalai Lama in Washington, is quoted in the New York Times today:

If the United States is consistent and sincere and vigorous in trying to persuade the Chinese Government to come to a settlement, I strongly believe it will happen.

The new post will also allow closer scrutiny of human rights abuses in Tibet, which continue at an appalling level. I would note, as the author of the provision which resulted in a separate Tibet report in the State Department's annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, that the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, led by Assistant Secretary Shattuck, has done a superb job in documenting